Marine Corps Planning Process

LtCol George S. Williams

MAGTF STAFF TRAINING PROGRAM

DOCEMUS PRIMAM ACIEM

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Purpose

- Provide an overview of the Marine Corps Planning Process (MCPP)

- Discuss the tenets of the MCPP

- Compare the MCPP with other planning processes

References

MCDP 6
Command and Control

MCDP 5
Planning

MCDP 1-0
Marine Corps Operations

U.S. Marine Corps

MCWP 3-40.1
MAGTF COMMAND AND CONTROL

U.S. Marine Corps

MCRP 2-12A
Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB)

Marine Corps

MCWP 5.1
MARINE CORPS PLANNING PROCESS

U.S. Marine Corps

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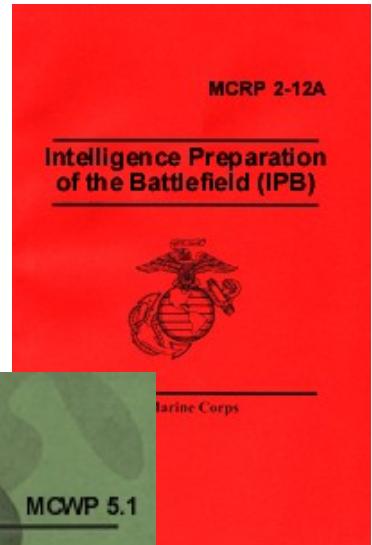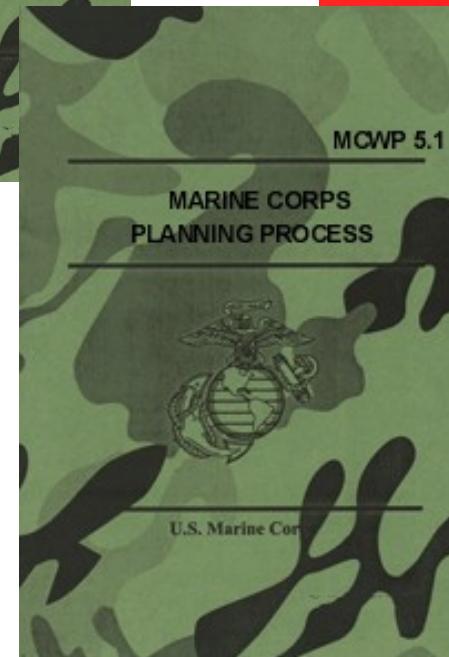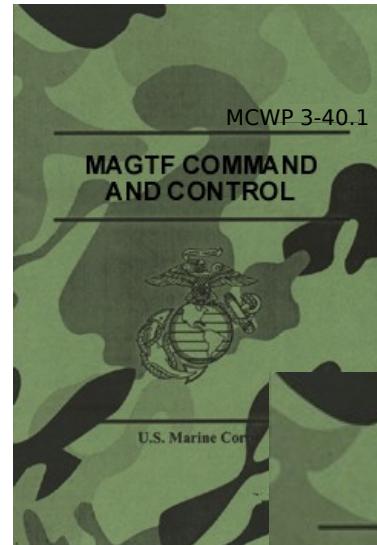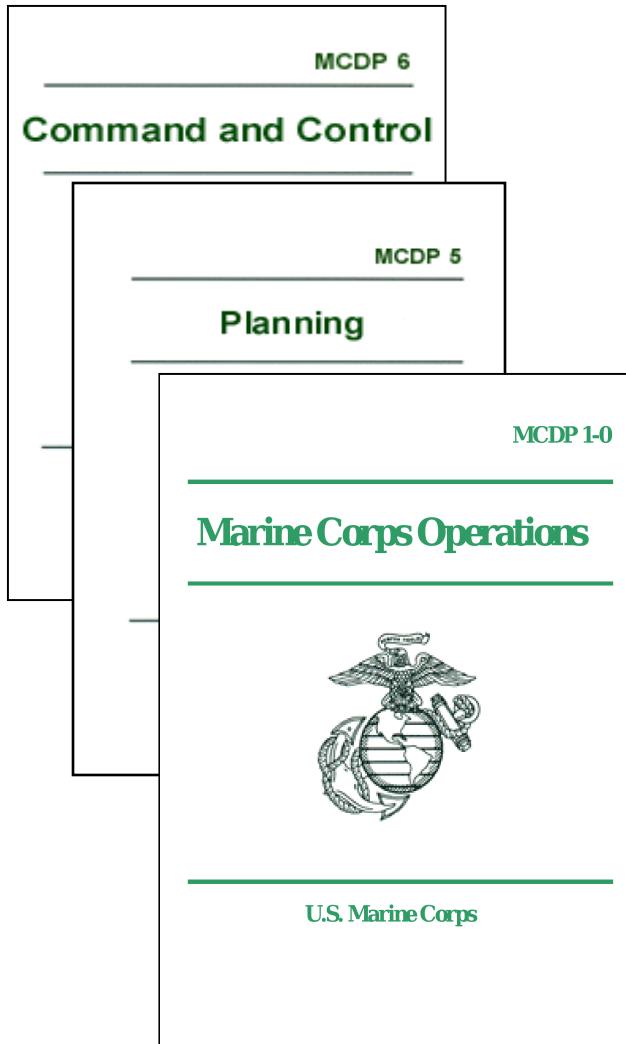
Planning

**"Planning is the act of envisioning a desired end state
and determining effective ways of achieving that goal."**

MCWP 5-1

Whether at the **strategic, operational,** or **tactical level,** the <u>key functions</u> of planning are to:

· Direct / coordinate actions

· Generate common expectations

· Support exercise of initiative

· Develop shared SA

Tenets of MCPP

- Top-Down Planning
- Single Battle Concept
- Integrated Planning

Top-Down Planning

- Commander drives the process:
  - CBAE
    - Intent
    - Battlespace
    - COGs
    - CCIRs
  - Planning guidance
- Commander gains:
  - Knowledge
  - Situation awareness
  - Support for decision making

Mission Analysis

COA Development

COA War Game

COA Comparison & Decision

Orders Development

Transition

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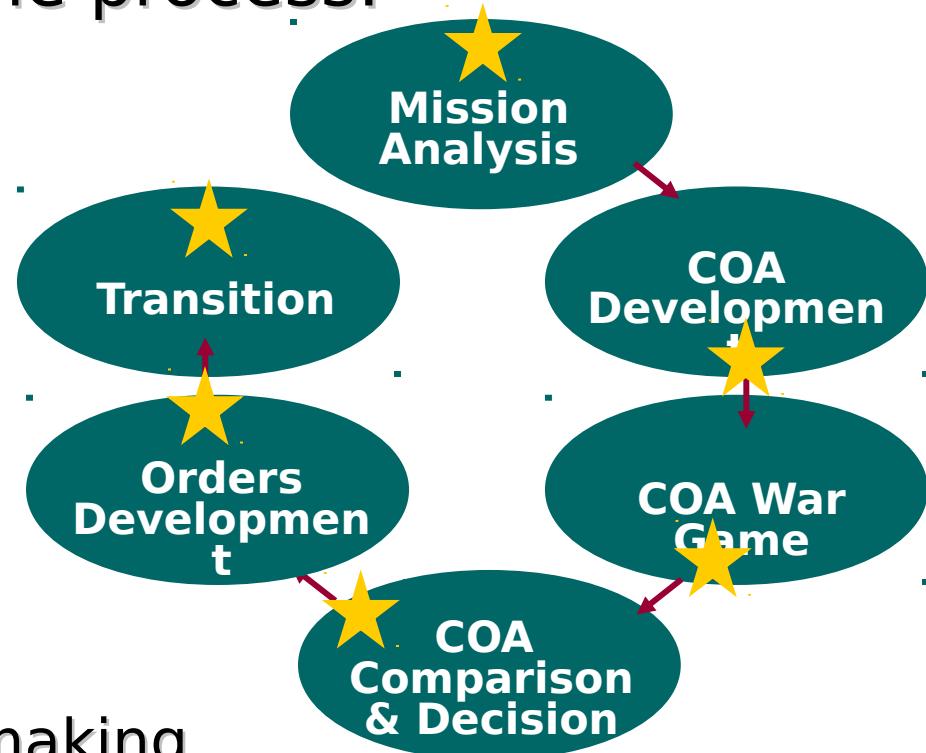
Single Battle

***Action anywhere is related
To action everywhere***

Deep **Close** **Rear**
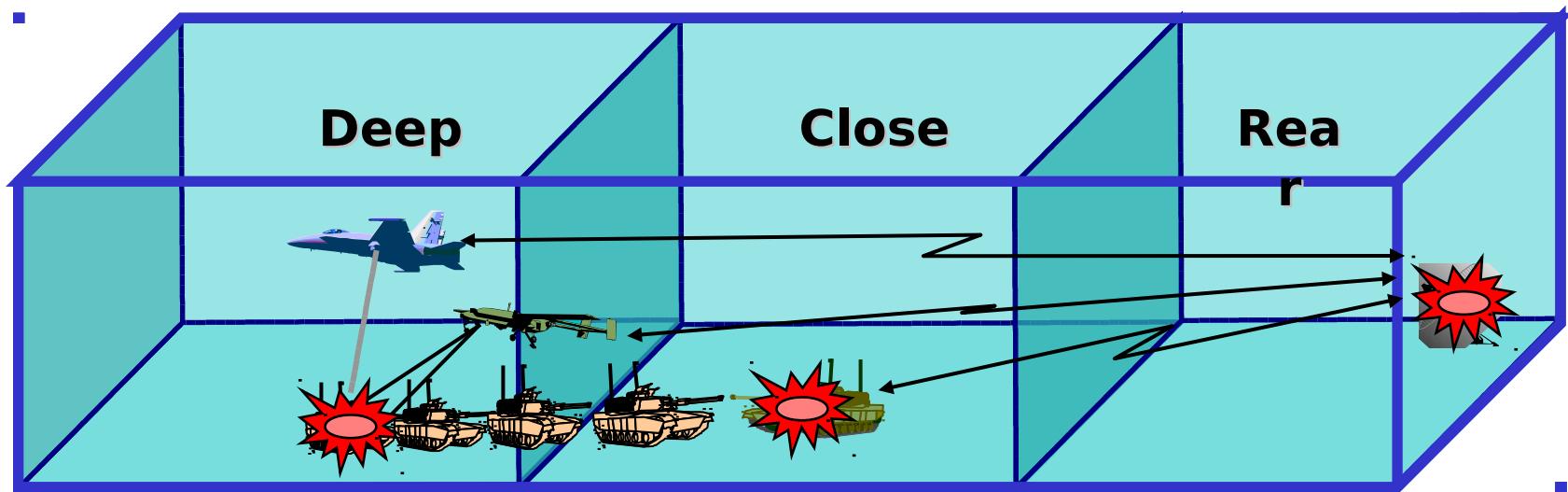
Integrated Planning
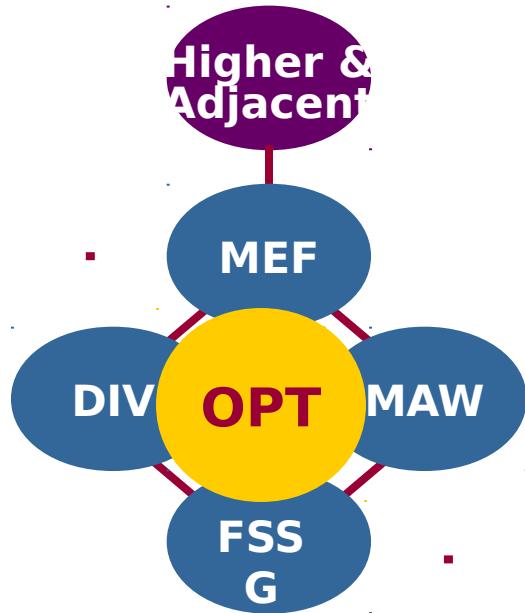
INTEGRATED STAFFS → **INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING FUNCTIONS**

Higher & Adjacent

MEF

DIV — OPT — MAW

FSSG

- C2
- Intel
- Fires
- Maneuver
- Logistics
- Force Protection

= Disciplined Approach to Planning

Marine Corps Planning Process

Higher Commander's Directives

Execution

Mission Analysis

COA Development

Transition

6 Step Process

COA War Game

Orders Development

COA Comparison & Decision
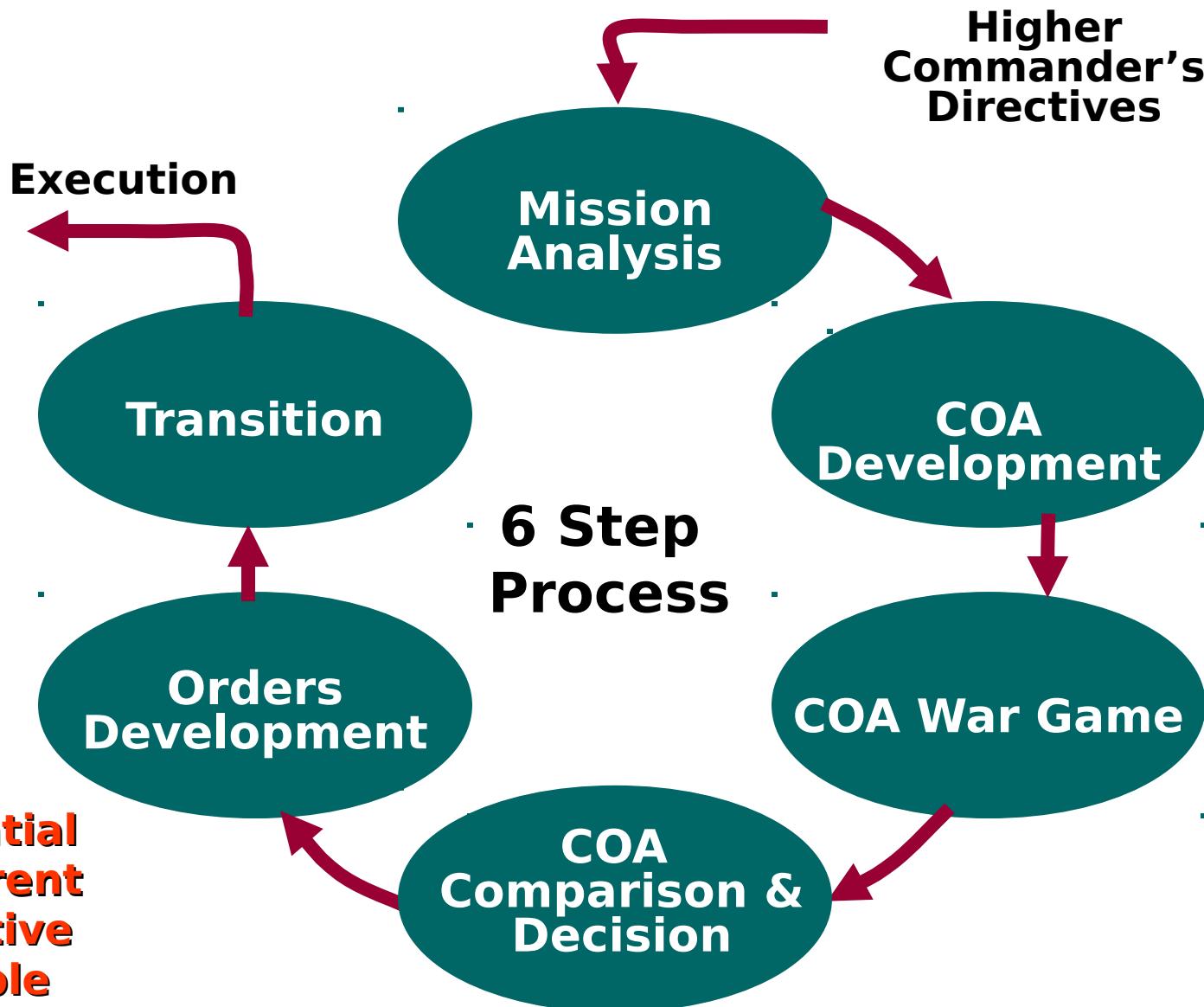
Sequential Concurrent Repetitive Scalable

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Legend

Process:
- Commander's input
- OPT/Staff Action

Staff Estimates

Input:

Output:

IPB

Staff Estimate

Purpose: "...provides a logical & orderly examination of all factors that affect mission accomplishment. It provides the commander & the staff with necessary information that supports decision-making throughout the planning process & subsequent execution of the operation."

MCWP 5-1

Mission Analysis

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          Mission
          Analysis
                              COA
Transition                    Development

Orders                        COA War Game
Development
              COA
              Comparison &
              Decision
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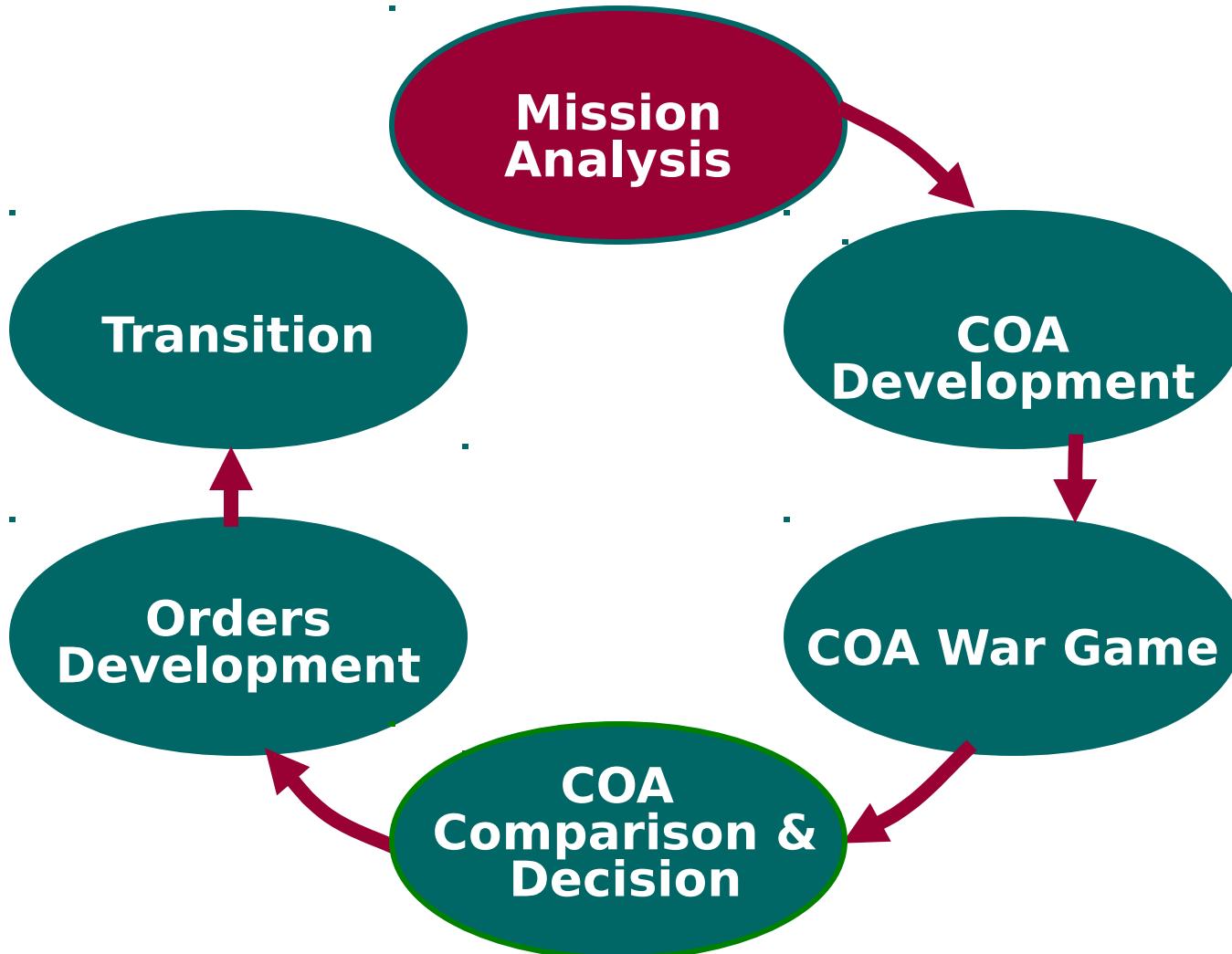
Mission Analysis

Purpose: "…to review and analyze orders, guidance and other information that is provided by higher headquarters in order to produce a unit mission statement."

MCWP 5-1

Mission Analysis

MSTP

Process:
- Information requirements
- Assumptions
- Constraints / restraints
- Identify tasks
- Draft mission statement

- *Red Cell*

Staff Estimates

Input:
- *HHQ*
  - *Order*
  - *Intel products*
- Commander's Orientation
  - CBAE
    - Battlespace
    - Intent
    - COG
    - CCIR
- Initial Guidance

IPB

Output:
- Mission statement
- Refined intent
- Planning guidance

- *Warning Order*

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COA Development

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        Mission
        Analysis  ──→

Transition                      COA
                            Development

Orders
Development       COA War Game

            COA
        Comparison &
          Decision
```

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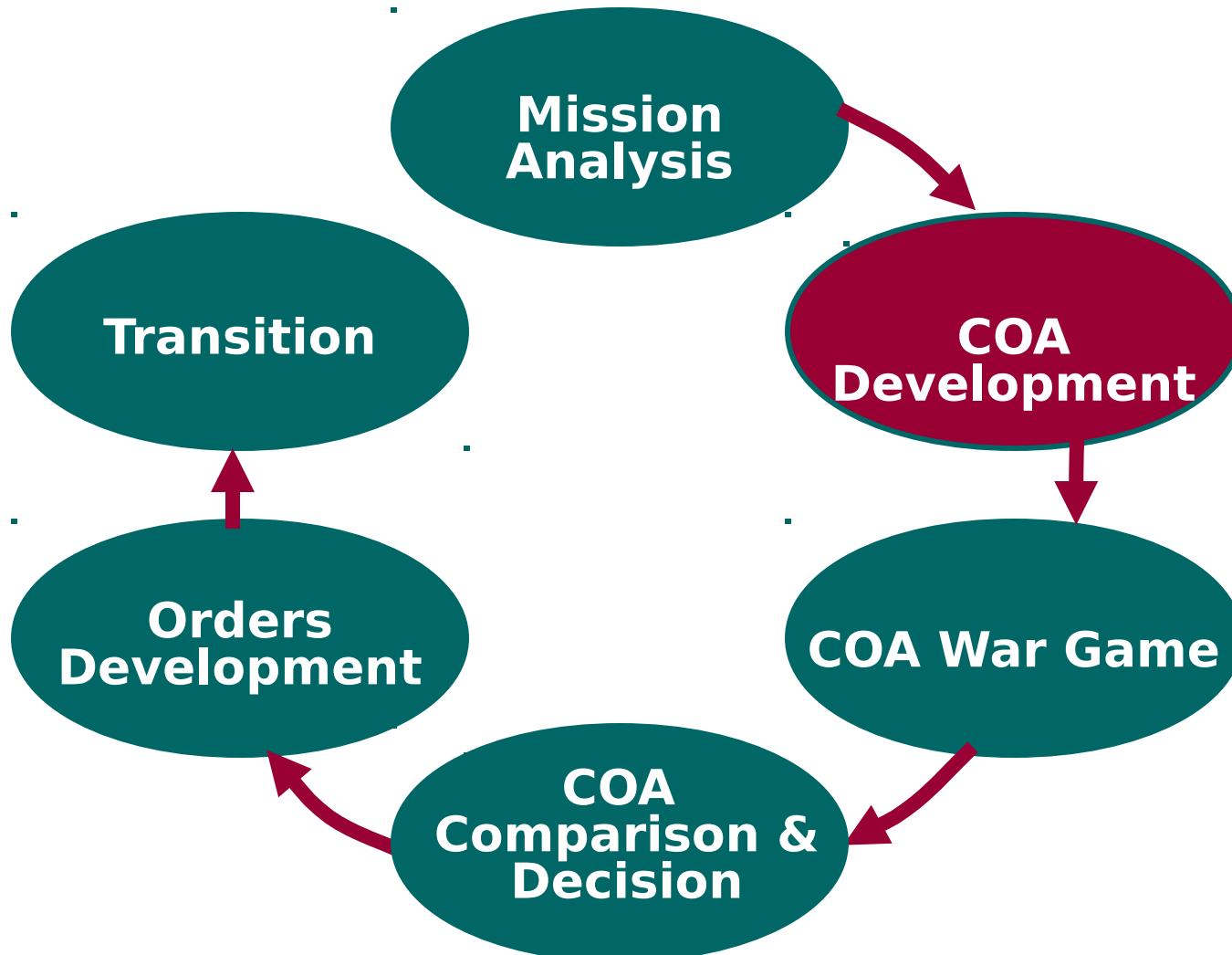
COA Development

Purpose: "...to generate options for follow-on wargaming and comparison that satisfy the mission, commander's intent and guidance of the commander."

MCWP 5-1

COA Development

Process:
- Develop initial COAs
- Commander's input
- COA refinement
  - Graphic & Narrative
- *COA criteria*
  - Suitable
  - Distinguishable
  - Feasible
  - Acceptable
  - Complete

Staff Estimates

Input:
- Mission Statement
- Refined intent
- Planning guidance

Output:
- Designated COAs for War Game
- War Game guidance
- Evaluation criteria

IPB

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COA War Game

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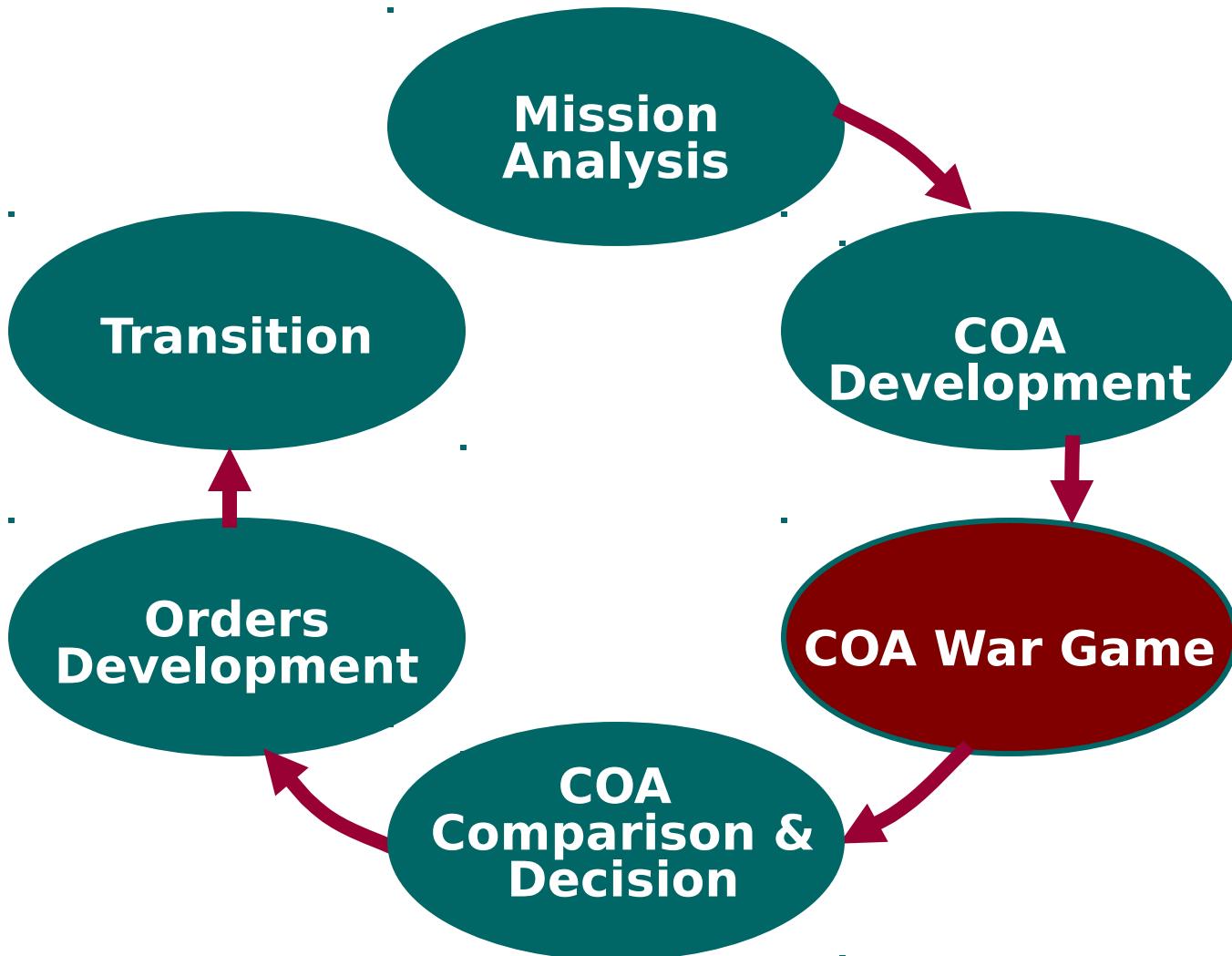
COA War Game

Purpose: "...assists planners in identifying strengths and weaknesses, associated risks, and asset shortfalls for each friendly course of action."

MCWP 5-1

COA War Game

Process:
- Conduct COA War Game
- Refine estimates
- Refine IPB products
  - DST
  - HVT/HPT

  - *Red Cell*

Staff Estimates

Input:
- Designated COAs for War Game
- War Game guidance
- Evaluation criteria

Output:
- War Gamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria

IPB

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COA Comparison & Decision

Mission Analysis

COA Development

Transition

COA War Game

Orders Development

COA Comparison & Decision
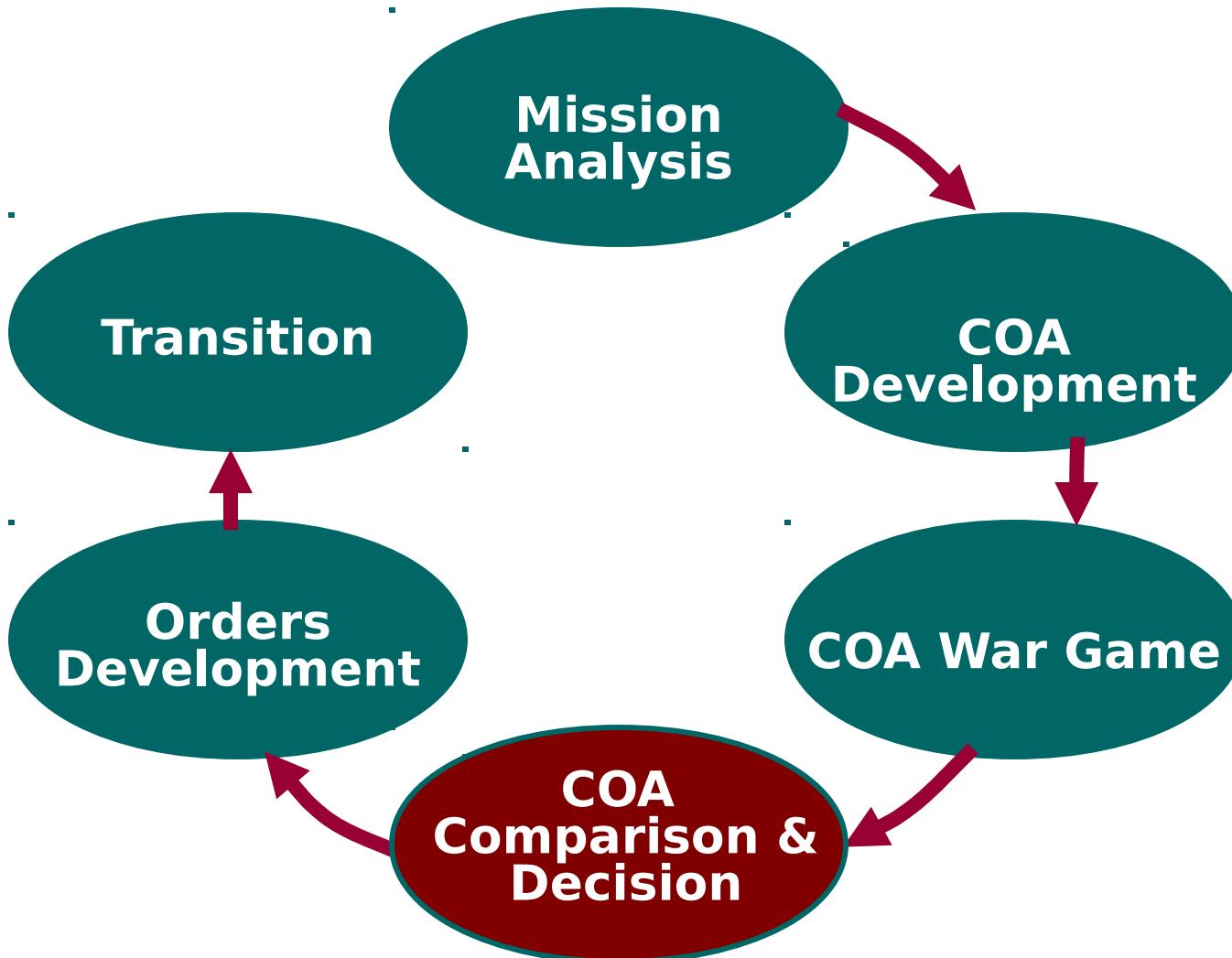
COA Comparison & Decision

Purpose: "…the commander evaluates all friendly courses of action against established criteria, evaluates them against each other, and selects the course of action that he believes will best accomplish the mission."

MCWP 5-1

COA Comparison & Decision

Process:
- Perform COA evaluation
- Perform COA comparison
- Commander's decision
- Prepare CONOPS

Staff Estimates

Input:
- War gamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria

Output:
- CONOPS

- *Warning Order*

IPB

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Orders Development

Mission Analysis

COA Development

COA War Game

COA Comparison & Decision

Orders Development

Transition
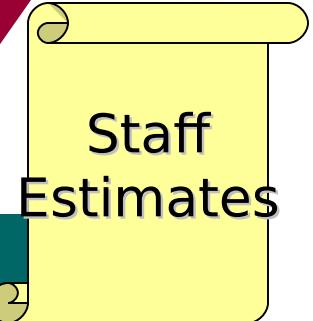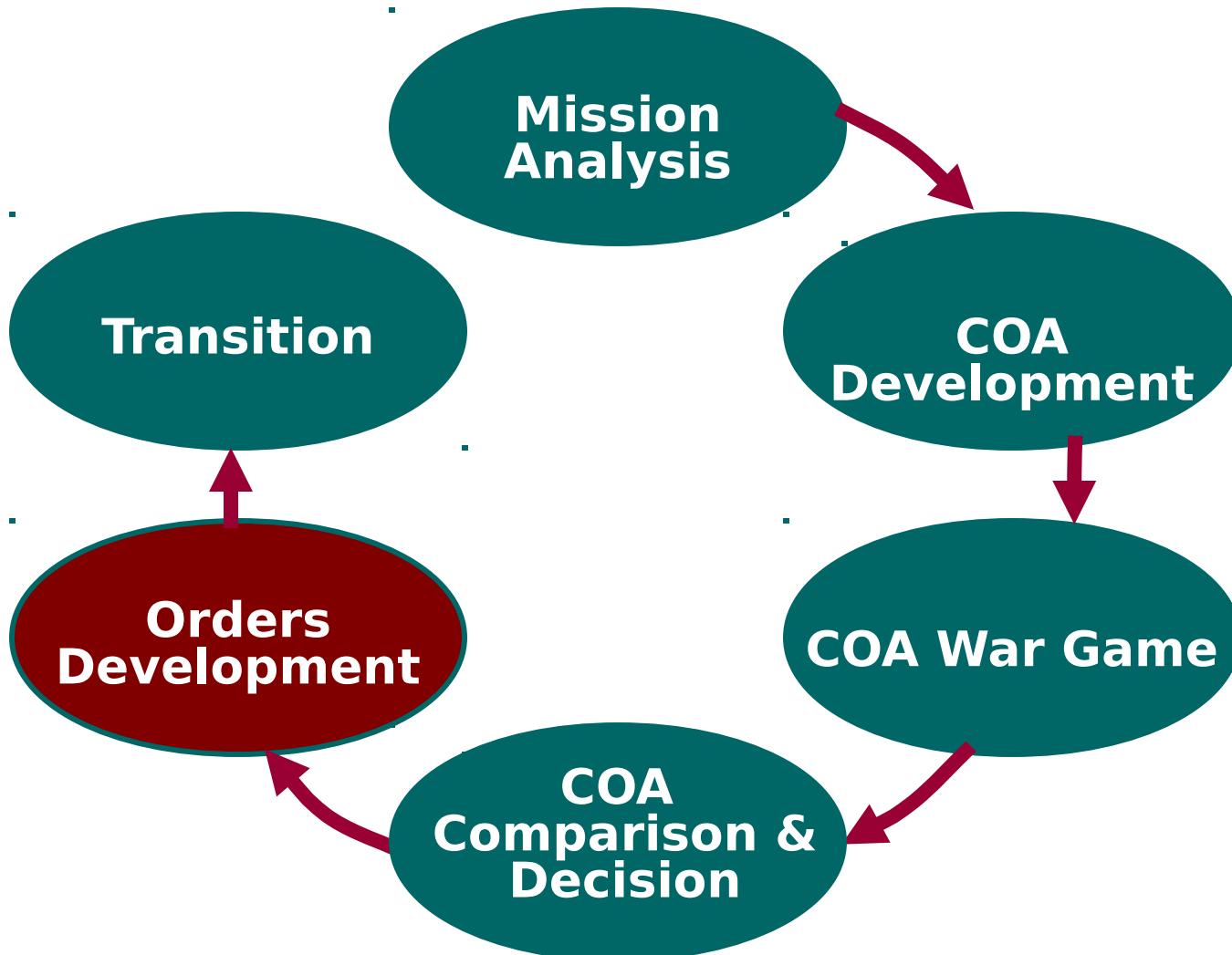
Orders Development

Purpose: "…communicates the commander's intent, guidance and decisions in a clear, useful form that is easily understood by those executing the order."

MCWP 5-1

Orders Development

Process:
- Prepare OPORD/OPLAN
- Orders reconciliation
- Orders crosswalk
- Commander's approval

Input:
- CONOPS
- Mission statement
- Commander's intent
- Task organization
- Specified & implied tasks

Output:
- *OPORD/OPLAN*

IPB
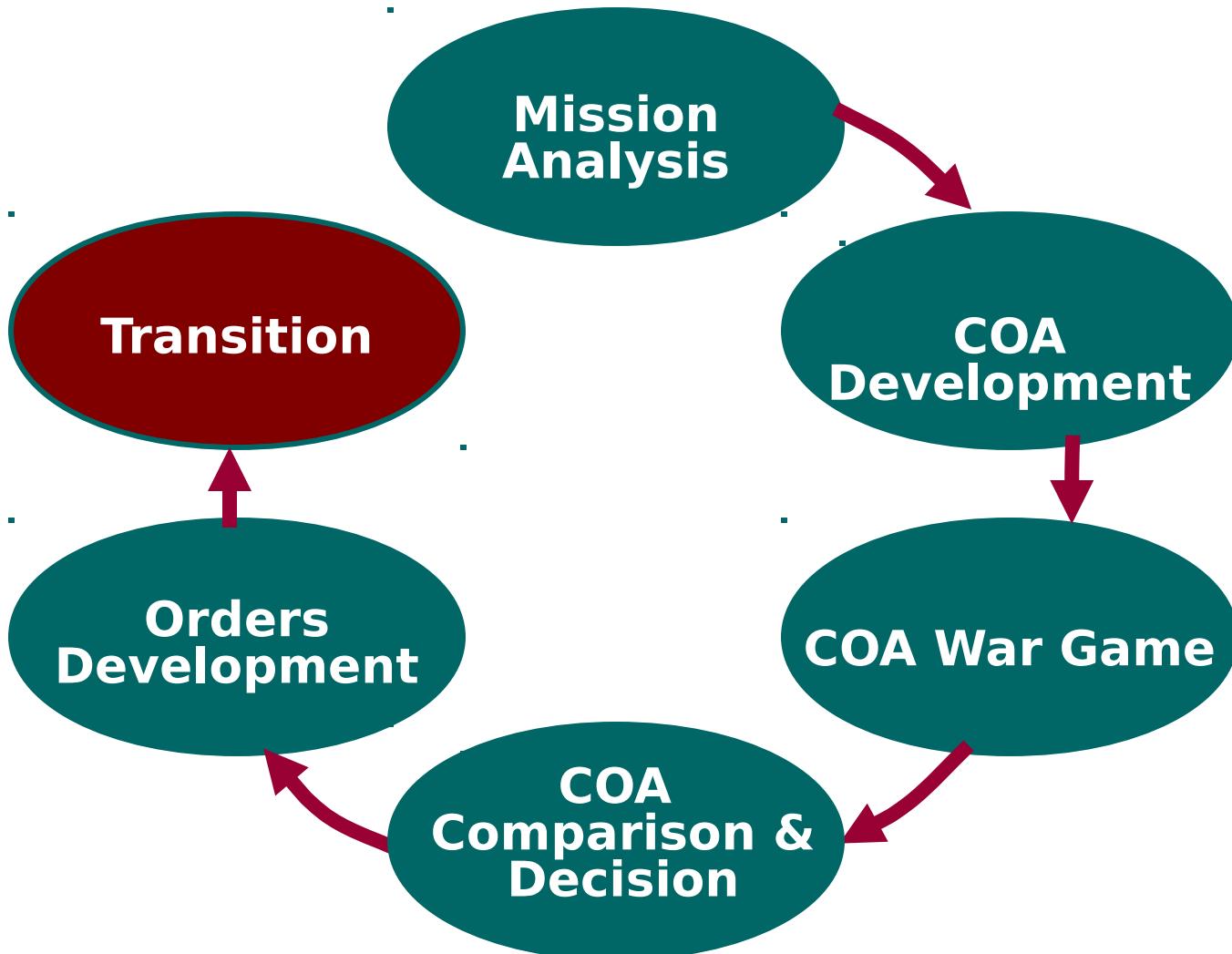
Transition

Transition

Purpose: "...to provide a successful shift from planning to execution."

MCWP 5-1

Transition

Process:
- Transition brief
- Internal/External
  - Drills
    - *-ROC Drill(s)*
- Confirmation brief

Input:
- *OPORD/OPLAN*

IPB

Output:
Subordinate commanders & staffs that are prepared to:
- Execute the order & possible branches
- Plan sequels

-Assessment

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Process Comparison

MCPP	MDMP	JTF	JOPES Crisis Action Planning
MISSION ANALYSIS	**RECEIPT OF MISSION**	**MISSION ANALYSIS**	**SITUATION DEVELOPMENT**
	MISSION ANALYSIS	**PLANNING GUIDANCE**	**CRISIS ASSESSMENT**
COA DEVELOPMENT	**COA DEVELOPMENT**	**COA DEVELOPMENT**	**COA DEVELOPMENT**
COA WAR GAME	**COA ANALYSIS**	**COA ANALYSIS**	
COA COMPARISON/ DECISION	**COA COMPARISON**	**COA COMPARISON**	
	COA APPROVAL	**COA SELECTION**	**COA SELECTION**
ORDERS DEVELOPMENT	**ORDERS PRODUCTION**	**ORDERS PRODUCTION**	**EXECUTION PLANNING**
TRANSITION			**EXECUTION**

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Summary

- Provided an overview of the MCPP

- Discussed the tenets of the MCPP

- Discussed how the MCPP compares with other planning processes